
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 21 without prejudice or disclaimer of the underlying subject matter and amend claims 17-20, 22, and 23 as set forth below:

Claims 1-16 are (CANCELED).

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A focus error signal production method for irradiating light upon an optical recording medium to obtain focus information of returning light from the optical recording medium, comprising the step of:

obtaining focus information of the returning light from the optical recording medium using an optical lens which includes a substrate made of an optical material and a convex element formed integrally with the substrate and having a convex curved face so as to have a function as an optical lens, the convex element being configured such that a focal length on a first cross section including an axis in a focus direction of the optical lens and a focal length on a second cross section perpendicular to the first cross section and intersecting with the first cross section along the axis in the focus direction are different from each other.

wherein a groove is formed along a boundary between the substrate and the convex element of the optical lens.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The focus error signal production method according to claim 17, wherein the shapes of the convex element on the first and second cross sections of the optical lens are symmetrical with respect to the axis in the focus direction.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The focus error signal production method according to claim 17, wherein the shapes of the convex element on the first and second cross sections of the optical lens are shapes of arcs substantially of ellipses.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The focus error signal production method according to claim 17, wherein the substrate of the optical lens has a flat face on which the convex element is formed.

21. (CANCELED).

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The focus error signal production method according to ~~claim 21~~, claim 17, wherein the groove of the optical lens has a substantially elliptical shape.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~The focus error signal production method according to ~~claim 21~~, claim 17, wherein the groove of the optical lens has a substantially rectangular shape.

Claims 24-34 are (CANCELED).